

No. R-107. House concurrent resolution congratulating Abigail Hawkins on her winning first place in the oratory category at the 2015 Vermont Debate and Forensics League State championship.

(H.C.R.74)

Offered by: Representatives Fagan of Rutland City, Cupoli of Rutland City, Gage of Rutland City, and Russell of Rutland City

Offered by: Senators Collamore, Flory, and Mullin

Whereas, Abigail (Abby) Hawkins, a Rutland High School freshman, is one of the few girls who have played high school football in Vermont, and she also plays girls' basketball, and

Whereas, away from the athletic arena, Abby Hawkins is a talented orator, and

Whereas, despite the basketball schedule that limited her oratorical participation to three regular season Vermont Debate and Forensic League meets, she was victorious twice, and

Whereas, oratory competitions typically consist of three rounds and, at one of her victories, Abby Hawkins was first in all three rounds,

Whereas, aside from attending her school's debate and forensics team's regularly scheduled practice sessions, Abby Hawkins devoted considerable time to individual preparation, and

Whereas, orators participating in the 2015 Vermont Debate and Forensics League State championship, held on February 7 at the State House, were required to select a topic, conduct thorough research, write a speech lasting eight minutes in length and then memorize it for presentation, and

Whereas, Abby Hawkins selected feminism and sports for her oration topic, certainly one of special personal interest, and

Whereas, she was one of the top three finishers in each of the standard three rounds, becoming eligible for a special State championship playoff round, and

Whereas, Abby Hawkins then proceeded to earn first place in the oratory category and will now participate in the Iroquois District competition in Towanda, Pennsylvania, and

Whereas, it is extremely unusual for a freshman to win the Vermont Debate and Forensics League's State championship in the oratory category, and her coaches, Ron Eisenman and Curt Casper, deserve recognition for their strong support and guidance throughout the academic year, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Abigail Hawkins on her winning first place in the oratory category at the 2015 Vermont Debate and Forensics League State championship and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Abigail Hawkins.